

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Tow Law Town Council held on Tuesday 19th September 2017 in the Community Centre, commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors J. Gale (Chair), T. Batson, J. Fowler, K. Geraghty - Shewan, R. Grogan, C. Hemingway, F. Nicol and H. Wilsher.

Also Present: **County Councillor R. Manchester**, I. Scrivin, N. Carpenter, E. Walsh, C. Batson (Residents), S. Abley (Tow Law Salamander Taekwondo), J. Flynn (Tow Law Community Association) and G. F. Smith (Clerk)

125/17 Apologies

Cllr P. Stokes (work)

126/17 Declaration of interest

Councillors Gale and Nichol declared an interest in agenda item 4 - Tow Law Community Association

Councillors Hemingway and Wilsher declared an interest in agenda item no 3 – Community Fund (Speedwatch Scheme).

127/17 Community Fund

- Tow Law Salamander Taekwondo – Mr Abley explained the reason for the application (i.e. additional members require further mats: 17 attending on a regular basis, 10 from the Tow Law area). Members agreed to donate £250.00 from this fund towards the cost of providing more mats for the club which meets in the Community Centre.
- Speedwatch Scheme (Wear Valley area)
Members agreed to the purchase of 1 no body camera to be used by the group at an approximate cost of £102.98, to be met from the Community Fund.

128/17 Application for a grant from Tow Law Community Association

Mrs J. Flynn, Secretary of the Tow Law Community Association presented the financial situation of the Association. Members discussed the needs of the centre with Mrs Flynn and decided: -

- To donate £3000 from Council funds towards the 2017/18 running costs with immediate effect.
- To review the situation again in December/January regarding a further donation.
- To review the possibility of an Annual donation to the Community Association before the decision is made for the Precept for 2018/19.
- To further discuss with the Association/Trustees the role of the Council in the Management of the Community Centre.

129/17 Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 18th July 2017

Agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

130/17 Matters Arising

None – All items covered on the agenda

131/17 Police/Pact Report – No report received

132/17 County Councillor Report

County Councillor Manchester reported on the following: -

- Anti Social Behaviour at Millennium Green, reported to Natalie Davis (ASBO at DCC).
- Two allotment sites to be transferred from DCC to Town Council, Clerk to be contacted by County Officer.
- Purchase of land for car park, clerk to be contacted by County Officer.

133/17 Representation by Residents

Mr Walsh raised the following:-

- Lack of bus service on a Sunday in Tow Law
- Road crossing required in Tow law (more heavy vehicles passing through the Town).

Mr Scrivin raised the following: -

- Land ownership 5/9 Castle Bank (Members suggested it may be owned by Bonds Foundry?).

Mr. Carpenter raised the following: -

- The Cattlemart – what’s happening with it? Why can’t enforcement notices be served on the owner? The state of the building is the main reason why potential buyers have resisted putting an offer in. The place is a mess.

134/17 Chairman’s Report

- Press coverage (no mention of funding by Town Council)
- Sewage plan of Tow Law (from Northumbrian Water)
- Gully cleaning machine in Tow Law – details passed onto County Councillor.
- Thanks to Councillor Fowler for chasing up the landlord regarding the resurfacing of the car park outside the Co-op building including in/out signs.
- Presentation of Councillor training certificates to Councillors C. Hemingway and H. Wilsher.

135/17 Planning Matters

A) Planning Application

DM/17/01995/FPA by Mr P. Batson for erection of 3no Industrial units at land opposite cottages, Wards End, Tow Law (Wolsingham Parish).

Decision – Members agreed to support this application but raised concerns on the lack of parking facilities (County Councillor would take this matter up with the Planning Officer).

DM/17/02806/FPA By Miss K. Elgey for additional car parking at the Medical Group, Charleton House, Tow Law.

Decision – Members agreed to support this application not raised concerns regarding tree planting/landscaping impact between adjoining properties (County Councillor would take this matter up with the Planning Officer)

B) Neighbourhood Planning

Consultation event did not take place in August, Clerk to arrange a Special Town Council meeting to discuss progress with the County Council Officers (Michael Lowe and Stuart Carter)

- 136/17 Accounts for payments**
Vouchers 26 to 49 in the sum of £20694.94 be approved for payment.
- 137/17 Expenditure Report 1st April to 31st August 2017**
Total Expenditure £29,576.67
Members agreed the report, copy attached to these minutes.
- 138/17 Annual return for the year ended 31st March 2017**
The Clerk reported that the documents had not been returned from the External Auditors (BDO). Upon receipt the Clerk would forward the above to all Councillors (by email) for them to approve by 30th September 2017.
- 139/17 Bus shelter near Park terrace, Tow Law**
The shelter was to be re-located and work had just started on site.
- 140/17 Cattle Mart site**
County Councillor Manchester reported: -
- A revised planning application from the owner was forthcoming
 - DCC preparing possible action plan (ie CPO notice in conjunction with the Town Council).
- 141/17 Tow Law Millennium Green**
The Clerk reported:-
- A) Permission received from Natural England for the erection of the play area with some conditions.
- B) Proludic (equipment supplier) confirmed prices (no increase)
- C) Following a meeting with the Contracts Manager of Proludic it was agreed to: -
- Work to commence 23rd October (subject to weather conditions)
 - Storage to be placed at the Trex Gym area (agreed by Janet Fowler).
 - Proludic to be responsible for ground re-instatement
 - Installation time frame to be reviewed depending on weather conditions.
 - Provision of Insurance certificates (produced and checked to be satisfactory).
 - Installation time – two weeks
 - Equipment has been ordered.
- D) E-mail from Lauren Powles regarding an accident to her dog
Members agreed to :-
- Clerk to inform the Police, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer (DCC) and the Neighbourhood Wardens (DCC).
 - Clerk to seek advice from the Council's Insurance Company.
- 142/17 Councillor Vacancies**
Members agreed to interview the three candidates, Clerk to arrange a meeting before the next scheduled Town Council meeting.
Following the meeting Caroline Batson, 2 Princes Court, Tow Law, wished to be considered for the vacancy. The Chair agreed for her to be interviewed with the other applicants.

143/17

Bee Hive Coke Oven Site

The Clerk reported that he had downloaded the application for scheduled monument consent from Historic England web site and would complete the form as soon as possible. Two Councillors would have to sign the necessary consent forms.

Members agreed to set-up a working party to look after the improvements etc to the site (Councillors Geraghty-Sherwan, Hemingway, Nicol and Wilsher).. The clerk also reported on the number/dates of grass cutting on the site, as follows:-

1st cut 17th July

2nd cut 17th August

3rd cut 19th September (weather conditions, ground soaked)

It was agreed to look at the schedule for the next season.

144/17

County Durham Skill Mill

The Clerk had circulated the e-mail from Steve Ragg (CDALC)

Regarding a new service for environmental schemes (specific programmes for young people who have offended).

Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Director of the scheme (Keith Appleton). Contact details Office: 03000 263628 / email:

keith.appleton@durham.gov.uk

145/17

Data Protection Regulations

The Clerk had circulated by e-mail a copy of the latest legal briefing on the reform of Data Protection Regulations, General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Bill for members information.

It was agreed to appoint the Clerk as the Data Protection Officer.

146/17

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following: -

- DCC Medium Term Financial Planning and 2018/19 Budget setting. Deadline for submitting Precept figures to DCC is 26th January 2018. Tax base for 2018/19 is 467.4. LCTRS grant from DCC reduced to £4048.00
- Innogy Uk Ltd – Tow Law Wind farm (site management changes)
- CDALC Annual General Meeting on 21st October 2017 at County Hall, Durham commencing at 10.00am.
- Vehicle Charging – grants to provide residential on-street charge points for plug in electric vehicles; guidance for Local Authorities; Office for Low Emission Vehicles.
- Boundary Commission for England 2018 review of Parliamentary Constituencies – consultation period; point of contact details.
- Well-being for Life (DCC Public Health team)
Members agreed for the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mr Mathew Youngman, Health trainer, contact details Office: 01207 218802 / e-mail: m.youngman@leisureworks.net
- St Philips's & St James Church, Tow Law – Flower Festival programme; sincere thanks for donation received from Tow Law Town Council.

147/17 **Members Report - None**

148/17 **Date of next meeting**

The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th October 2017 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre, Tow Law.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm

Signed by the Chairman.....page 5